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Yonkers Green Policy Task Force News Blast

September 2, 2009

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The GPTF Meeting is Tonight at 6:30 pm at City Hall

The following is on our agenda:

1. Transportation
 - Bus grant
 - Idling law update
2. Energy
 - Energy block grants
3. Recycling
 - School recycling program update
 - Paper recycling in the schools
 - Downtown Program for recycling
 - Warburton Ave. recycling
4. GPTF
 - Riverfest
 - Logo

Any additional items that may properly come before this Committee.

Look for the GPTF at Yonkers Riverfest

The [Yonkers Green Policy Task Force](#) will be out in full force at [Riverfest](#) on Saturday, Sept. 12 this year.

Join Chairman Bob Walters and Coordinator Laura Fahrenthold with members Joe D'Lando, Mel Goldstein, Terry Joshi, Loretta Miraglia, Molly Roffman, Margaret Setterholm, and Nortrud Spero for a day of music, food and fun while spreading the word about making Yonkers more sustainable.



The GPTF is divided into four environmental sub-committees similar to those of the [Westchester County Global Warming Task Force](#) to include Transportation, Energy Efficiency and Green Buildings, Land Use and Recycling/Waste Reduction.

Stop by our booth to receive a GPTF reusable bag for all your shopping needs. Sign up to become a green volunteer! Take home our bi-lingual literature on everything from recycling to home energy efficiency grants. Be part of the Force!

Get Your "Honey Do" On

Household partners get your "Honey Do List" pens ready to make a list of items to recycle for Yonkers September 12 Household Recycling Day.

The recycling day comes as very good news to one diligent Northwest Yonkers resident.

"I have been waiting to get rid of some old paint cans," said Joyce. "My husband wanted to throw them in the garbage but I wouldn't let him."

She also keeps a box for items she can't normally dispose of such as dead batteries, burned out florescent lightbulbs, a few containers of car oil, and an expired fire extinguisher.

"My husband is like a hawk circling the box, asking why he can't just trash it," she reports. "Why doesn't he dispose of his scrap piles or all his old albums? I am doing right by the environment. He's just taking up space."

The GPTF suggests that such frustrated wives may find solace in a blog recently featured in the New York Daily News called, ["My Husband is Annoying."](#)

Still, Joyce and her husband will join hundreds between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the County Recycling Center on Stew Leonard Drive in dropping off household waste (including residential chemicals) that can't be set out for curbside collection or recycling.

Click [here](#) for a comprehensive list of what's recyclable and what's not.

Say Yes to No Idling!

Hundreds of Yonkers school bus drivers are expected to sign pledges to abide by the no-idling law on school grounds at an educational seminar on Saturday, Sept. 12 to help improve the air quality our children and residents breathe.

Representatives from the Yonkers Board of Education and the [Green Policy Task Force](#) will present material, including an educational video from the EPA and samples of the new no-idling signs to be posted on school grounds, by the start of the 2009-10 school year.

The driver education initiative is part of a \$300,000 Clean School Bus grant Yonkers received from the EPA in April, 2008 to reduce harmful emissions caused by diesel school buses. The New York State Department of Education also passed a no-idling law in 2008 that Yonkers adopted shortly thereafter. The city spends \$35.9 million a year on school transportation for about 850 runs a day.

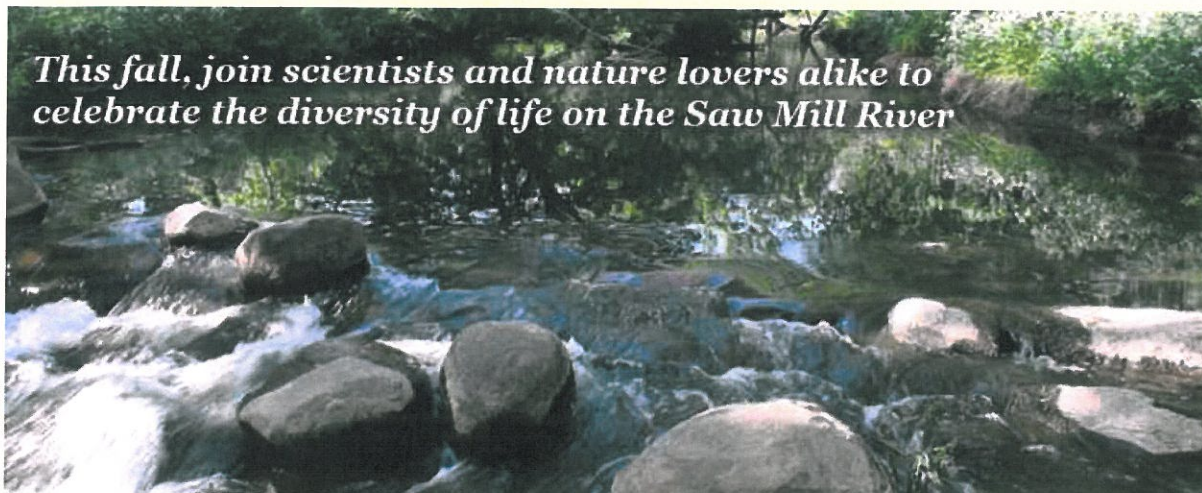
For more information, contact Anna Sollozzo at 914- 376-8000. To view the anti-idling video, click on the Yonkers Public Schools website [here](#).

Yonkers Farmer's Market

The St. John's Farmer's Market in [Downtown Yonkers](#) at Getty Square (1 Hudson Street) is in full swing on Thursdays between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through November 19.

Help support our farmers and your family's health by buying locally. Note that according to the USDA, the farmers market directory listed 4,685 farmers markets operating in the United States in 2008 representing an 6.8 percent increase from 4,385 farmers markets in 2006.

Bio-Blitz



In an effort to protect the dwindling wildlife we have left in and around the Saw Mill River watershed, [Ground work Hudson Valley](#) has organized a wildlife headcount, called a BioBlitz, to help educate residents, municipal decision-makers, naturalists, and all others about this precious watershed. Click [here](#) to see the flier.

The public is invited to participate by helping more than 65 scientists and experts who will conduct a 24- hour, around-the-clock inventory of all the living organisms by cataloging found species of plants, animals, insects, fungi, bacteria, etc.

The goal is to educate watershed community residents about backyard wildlife and to inform agencies who work to protect and enhance life within the watershed.

Here's the schedule of scientific lectures, events and workshops, including a junior BioBlitz.

Opening Ceremonies:

Friday, September 25, 4:30 - 5:30 pm - The Science Barge, end of Dock St., Yonkers
Watch Yonkers' municipal officials "release" the scientists into the watershed. Also see a live demonstration of what the seining net pulls in from the river.

Junior BioBlitz:

Saturday, September 26, 10:30am and 12:30pm - Pace University Pleasantville Campus, Pleasantville, NY

K-8 students will participate in a Junior BioBlitz where they'll survey sections of the campus and identify species with nature center docents.

Shadow a Scientist:

Saturday, September 26, Various times and locations.

There will be a limited number of "shadowing" positions for high school students to accompany scientists during their field work.

Nature Walks:

Saturday, September 26, 11:00am and 1:00pm - Pace University Campus, Pleasantville, NY

Docents will lead nature walks of the campus to identify birds, trees, plants, and other "critters."

Lecture Series:

Saturday, September 26, 1:00 - 4:00 pm- Pace University Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY

Lectures on biodiversity and roundtable discussions.

Roundtable Discussions:

Saturday, September 26, 1:00 - 5:00 pm- Pace University Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY

Throughout the lecture series, municipal officials will participate in targeted sessions that focus on the ways municipalities can incorporate resource protection into village and town land use decisions.

Closing Ceremonies:

Saturday, September 26, 4:00-5:30pm

Total number of species identified will be announced and participating scientists will be honored.

Email Groundwork Hudson Valley for more information.

Recycling Tip of the Eblast

There's a growing group in Westchester with hundreds of members who choose to give away their throwaways, rather than feed them to the landfills.

Whether it's a chair, a fax machine, exercise equipment (a.k.a. coat

hanger) or an old door, people "sell" them for free on [Freecycle](http://www.freecycle.org). Everything posted must be FREE, legal and appropriate for all ages.

Please direct questions or comments to the Moderators or to The Freecycle Network.

Happy Hunting!

A Garden Grows in Yonkers

A large plot of overgrown land on the corner of Bronxville Road and Vera Road, long a neighborhood eyesore, is soon to become a neighborhood delight for both residents and wildlife alike.

On September 12 and 13, the weed and rubble strewn lot will be adorned with gorgeous native plant species that will be maintained with sustainable gardening practices. What's more, it will be designated as a [Certified Wildlife Habitat](#) through the [National Wildlife Federation](#) for providing the requisite food, water, cover, and space for wildlife to raise their young.

This is all thanks to King Fences, Parks Commissioner Augie Cambria, Kim Eierman, Marion Brown, Katherine Sutton, Claudia Wald and other community residents, as well as to their 4-H horticulture intern from the Cornell University Cooperative Extension volunteer program.

Want to turn your backyard into a wildlife-friendly domain? Click on the links above to learn how.

Recycling News



Please [link](#) to this Op-Ed piece in the Connecticut Post on why everything recycled is not necessarily good or good for you--especially tires.

The gist is that the United States has generated about one used tire per person when calculated by the EPA in 2003. The controversy is what to do about this hazardous waste material. The EPA says turn it into crumb rubber to be used in athletic fields, as mulch in

children's playgrounds, and even as mulch for gardens.

Opponents say the tires contain a host of toxins and carcinogens that are harmful to our health.

You can read all about it, perhaps while riding the [Bee-Line](#). Going further? Try [Metro-North](#), the [NY Water Taxi](#), or [Amtrak](#).



This eblast is provided by the Yonkers City Council's [Green Policy Task Force](#). The Task Force meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th floor of City Hall. If you know of others in the environmental community who would like to receive this news or attend meetings, please email laura.fahrenthold@yonkersny.gov

From: Council President Chuck Lesnick with Chairman Bob Walters and Coordinator Laura Fahrenthold; District 1 Councilmember Pat McDow with Margaret Setterholm; District 2 Majority Leader Sandy Annabi with Nortrud Spero; District 3 Councilmember Joan Gronowski with Loretta Miraglia; District 4 Minority Leader Liam J. McLaughlin with Terry Joshi; District 5 Councilmember John Murtagh with Molly Roffman; District 6 Councilmember Dee Barbato with Mel Goldstein; Administration's Appointee Joe D'Lando.

Written by Laura Fahrenthold

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